

ensuring our children have access to quality health care.

The record is clear. Democrats wants to cover kids; Republicans don't.

THE FARM BILL

(Mr. ETHERIDGE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, later this morning the House will take up the farm bill, H.R. 2419, and let me just share a couple of quotes, one from the American Farm Bureau:

"The farm bill is one of our highest priorities. We understand there may be a motion to recommit the bill back to the House Committee on Agriculture. We urge you to oppose this amendment. Without the additional almost \$4 billion in offsets, we cannot adequately fund the nutrition needs in the farm bill." This is signed by the president of the American Farm Bureau Federation.

And from 24 different commodity groups that affect labor and commodities in America:

"Dear Members of Congress, we support both the underlying farm bill and the additional nutrition spending which gives rise to the need for an offset. For that reason we appreciate the efforts of Members of Congress who have attempted to identify that offset and we would encourage those who are concerned about the offset identified by the Committee on Ways and Means to support H.R. 2419 despite those concerns.

"In any event, we urge the House to move expeditiously to pass H.R. 2419. We remain hopeful that the long congressional tradition of passing farm bills on a bipartisan fashion will not be broken." And it is signed by 24 groups from the American Soybean Association through the U.S. Rice Producers Association.

American Soybean Association
American Sugar Alliance
Arkansas Rice Growers Association
Missouri Rice Research and Merchandising Council
National Association of Wheat Growers
National Barley Growers Association
National Cotton Council
National Farmers Organization
National Farmers Union
National Sorghum Producers
National Sunflower Association
North Carolina Peanut Growers Association
Oklahoma Peanut Commission
Panhandle Peanut Growers Association
South Carolina Peanut Growers Association
Southern Peanut Farmers Federation
Texas Peanut Producers Association
Texas Peanut Producers Board
Western Peanut Growers
United Egg Producers
USA Dry Pea & Lentil Council
USA Rice Federation
US Canola Association
US Rice Producers Association

FARM, NUTRITION, AND BIOENERGY ACT OF 2007

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 574 and rule

XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 2419.

□ 0914

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 2419) to provide for the continuation of agricultural programs through fiscal year 2012, and for other purposes, with Mr. SCHIFF (Acting Chairman) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Thursday, July 26, 2007, amendments numbered 1 and 2 printed in House Report 110-261, as well as certain amendments en bloc, had been disposed of.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MR. GOODLATTE

The Acting CHAIRMAN. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 3 printed in part B of House Report 110-261.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 3 offered by Mr. GOODLATTE:

At the end of subtitle A of title II (conservation), add the following new section:

SEC. 2409. COMMON EASEMENT AUTHORITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Food Security Act of 1985 is amended by inserting after section 1230 (16 U.S.C. 3801) the following new section:

"SEC. 1230A. COMMON EASEMENT AUTHORITIES.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—

"(1) PROGRAM.—In this section the term 'program' means the applicable program described in paragraph (2).

"(2) APPLICABILITY.—This section shall apply to the terms and conditions of all easements purchased under authorities of this subtitle:

"(A) The wetlands reserve program under subchapter C.

"(B) The farmland protection program under subchapter B of Chapter 2.

"(C) The grassland reserve program under subchapter C of Chapter 2.

"(D) The healthy forests reserve program, sections 501-508 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6571-6578).

"(3) ENROLLMENT.—The Secretary may either directly, or through an eligible entity, obtain an interest in eligible land through—

"(A) a 30-year or permanent easement; or

"(B) in a State that imposes a maximum duration for easements, an easement for the maximum duration allowed under State law.

"(4) HOLDER OF EASEMENT TITLE.—The title holder of an easement obtained under one of the programs described in paragraph (2), in addition to the Secretary, or in lieu of the Secretary, may be an eligible entity.

"(5) ESTABLISHING EASEMENT.—To become eligible to enroll land in the program through an easement, the landowner or eligible entity, as applicable, shall—

"(A) create and record an appropriate deed restriction in accordance with applicable State law;

"(B) provide proof of unencumbered title to the underlying fee interest in the land that is subject of the easement;

"(C) grant the easement to either the Secretary or an eligible entity;

"(D) comply with the terms of the easement and any restoration agreement; and

"(E) explicitly consent in writing to granting a security interest in the land to either the Secretary or an eligible entity.

"(6) WETLANDS RESERVE PROGRAM DEEDS.—A deed used to record an easement under the wetlands reserve program in subchapter C shall provide for sufficient protection of the functions and values of the wetland or floodplain, as determined by the Secretary.

"(7) DEED FOR OTHER EASEMENT PROGRAMS.—A deed used to record an easement under all programs described in paragraph (2) other than the wetlands reserve program shall be in the form of a negative restrictive deed that—

"(A) is in a format prescribed by the Secretary;

"(B) details the rights obtained by the easement; and

"(C) allows for specific uses of the land, if the use is consistent with the long-term protection of the purposes for which the easement was established.

"(8) ACCEPTANCE OF CONTRIBUTIONS.—The Secretary may accept and use contributions of non-Federal funds to carry out the administration or purpose the program.

"(9) MODIFICATION, TRANSFER, OR TERMINATION OF EASEMENT.—

"(A) MODIFICATION.—The Secretary may modify an easement acquired from, or a related agreement with, an owner or eligible entity under one of the programs described under paragraph (2) if—

"(i) the parties involved with the easement on the land agree to such modification; and

"(ii) the Secretary determines that such modification is desirable—

"(I) to carry out the program;

"(II) to facilitate administration of the program; or

"(III) to achieve such other goals as the Secretary determines are appropriate.

"(B) TITLE TRANSFER.—The Secretary may transfer title of ownership of an easement to an eligible entity to hold and enforce, in lieu of the Secretary, subject to the right of the Secretary to conduct periodic inspections and enforce the easement, if—

"(i) the Secretary determines that granting the transfer would promote the protection of eligible land;

"(ii) the owner authorizes the eligible entity to hold and enforce the easement;

"(iii) the eligible entity assuming the title agrees to assume the costs incurred in administering and enforcing the easement, including the costs of restoration or rehabilitation of the land as specified by the owner and the eligible entity; and

"(iv) the eligible entity, except for an eligible entity under section 1238H(a)(1), has a commitment to protect the conservation purpose of the easement and has the resources to enforce the easement.

"(C) TERMINATION.—The Secretary may terminate an easement if—

"(i) the parties involved with such easement agree to such termination; and

"(ii) the Secretary determines that such termination would be in the public interest.

"(10) VIOLATION.—Upon the violation of the terms or conditions of an easement or other agreement entered into under this section—

"(A) the easement shall remain in force; and

"(B) the Secretary may require the owner to refund all or part of any payments received by the owner under the program, with interest on the payments as determined appropriate by the Secretary.

"(b) EASEMENTS HELD BY SECRETARY.—